



EL PASO INDEPENDENT
SCHOOL DISTRICT

Academics and School Leadership

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TO: Principals and Teachers
FROM: Dr. Carla Gonzales, Associate Superintendent
DATE: August 27, 2020
SUBJECT: Freeze on Homework

Given the current circumstances, effective today, we are instituting a freeze on homework while we are implementing 100% virtual instruction. We will reevaluate the freeze once we return to face-to-face instruction. The following reasons underscore the need for the freeze:

1. The very nature of the pandemic presents significant stress to students and families and we need an absolute stop at the end of the school day.
2. The virtual instructional platform requires a significant amount of time on their devices during the day.

For the sake of clarity, classwork is defined as work that is started and 100% completed during the time allotted for the class period or block. For certain exceptions where a few students have 10-20% remaining, they can be asked to complete independently later. Homework is defined as any work to be completed independently and is more than 20% of the total assignment given. Here are a few examples:

1. The student is given an assignment during class. The student was not able to finish the given assignment and has less than 20% of that assignment left to complete. That assignment can be completed after the virtual school day. **This is acceptable under the current circumstances.**
2. The teacher assigns additional work to be completed after the virtual school day. The assignment is above and beyond the work that was assigned during the class and is expected to be completed independently. **This is unacceptable under the current circumstances.**

There is an exception for Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and International Baccalaureate courses. For these specific **high school** courses, any homework assigned should be offline as much as possible. Furthermore, whatever homework would have been assigned in a traditional brick and mortar setting, assign approximately 50% of that during this time.

Lastly, for students/families who specifically request work or want extensions, enrichment activities can be provided. The assigned enrichment activities cannot be used as graded work.

EPISD values the social and emotional well-being of all students and staff, and believe this decision aligns with our beliefs. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to our students and their families.

Approved by:

Vince Sheffield, Deputy Superintendent of Academics and Administration

Approved by:

Juan E. Cabrera, Superintendent